



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City Courthouse Awarded Prestigious  
LEED®-Silver Green Building Certification**  
***First in City and First Courthouse in Virginia to Certify Under LEED V3 2009***

The City of Colonial Heights announced today that the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) has awarded the City Courthouse with its LEED®-Silver Certification, identifying it as “a showcase example of sustainable design that demonstrates the City’s leadership in transforming the building industry.”

The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system developed by the USGBC is universally recognized as the foremost program for recognizing buildings designed, constructed, and maintained for improved environmental performance and human health. Leaders around the world have made LEED® the most widely used third-party verification for green buildings, with around 1.85 million square feet being certified daily.

“While it was always our goal to construct an environmentally-friendly building, the certification of our efforts by the United States Green Building Council is a significant accomplishment for the City,” said Colonial Heights Mayor Greg Kochuba.

The City of Colonial Heights Courthouse achieved its LEED®-Silver certification after undergoing a technically rigorous review process, earning points across several areas that addressed sustainability issues and incorporated green strategies to achieve efficiencies and healthy indoor environments. Its sound design and operation was tested and measured using the LEED® rating system for building design and construction, the benchmark for green buildings.

“With each new LEED®-certified building, we get one step closer to USGBC’s vision of a sustainable built environment within a generation,” said Rick Fedrizzi, CEO and founding chair, USGBC. “As the newest member of the LEED® family of green buildings, the Colonial Heights Courthouse is an important addition to the growing strength of the green building movement.”

Opened in October of 2013, the state-of-the-art Courthouse includes total building space of more than 57,000 square feet at a total project cost of approximately \$22M – including land, engineering and furnishings. It is home to the Circuit Court, General District Court, Court Clerks, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Sheriff, and Corrections Services. The main structure contains three courtrooms, including the city’s first Juvenile and Domestic Relations courtroom.

The Courthouse was constructed with extensive landscaping, natural lighting, permeable paving, and stormwater bio-retention incorporated into the vehicle parking areas. These features not only help improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, they also reduce stormwater runoff from the site.

“Using permeable pavement is an excellent way to keep pollutants out of the City’s stormwater system, which improves the health of local streams and the Chesapeake Bay. This green infrastructure helps water to drain naturally back into the earth, filtering out traces of nutrients and other contaminants that can harm the environment,” said Chuck Henley, Director of Public Works/City Engineer.

Located on the southern end of the Boulevard, the Courthouse is a “neo-classical” design with a bricked exterior and columned porticos. A predominant building feature is a “lighthouse-design” cupola, creating great visibility for the courthouse as a local landmark. The new facility also includes extensive landscaping with native plantings and a pedestrian-friendly courtyard.

“It is obvious to everyone that we were very successful in building an attractive building that citizens can be proud of, but it’s a special bonus to have one that’s certified as sustainable and environmentally-friendly,” said City Manager Tom Mattis. “The City Council and Courthouse Building Committee are both to be commended for having the vision and foresight to support the extra effort required to achieve this certification.”

Guiding the design and construction of the project from the beginning was the Courthouse Building Committee; whose members included then-Mayor C. Scott Davis, then-Presiding Judge, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit of Virginia Hon. Herbert C. Gill Jr. and Colonial Heights Sheriff Todd B. Wilson, in addition to the City Manager and City Engineer.

While the Courthouse is the first building ever constructed in Colonial Heights to receive LEED®-Silver Certification, it is also only the fourth locality-funded Courthouse *in the entire Commonwealth of Virginia* to have received this recognition. The Lynchburg Juvenile Courthouse, the Young-Laine Courts Building (Isle of Wight County), and the Shenandoah County District Courts Building are the only other similar facilities to be LEED®-Silver certified in Virginia.

The general contractor for this project was Kenbridge Construction Company, Inc. of Kenbridge, Virginia. The project architects were Moseley Architects, P.C. of Richmond, Virginia and Enteros Design, P.C. of Petersburg.

The City of Colonial Heights Courthouse is located at 550 Boulevard and is typically open from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Visitors are always welcome.

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#### **About Colonial Heights**

The City of Colonial Heights is a full-service independent Virginia city that is home to just over 17,000 residents and serves as the market center for the Tri-Cities Area (which includes the cities of Petersburg and Hopewell, Prince George and Dinwiddie Counties and Fort Lee). For more information about Colonial Heights, please visit [www.colonialheightsva.gov](http://www.colonialheightsva.gov).